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sided and first introduced Governor A. C. Shallenberger, who spoke on "Twenty-five Years for the State"; other toasts were as follows: "Forty Years for Botany," by Professor Frederic E. Clements; "His Influence as a Teacher," by Dean Henry B. Ward; "What he has done for the University," by Professor George E. Condra, and "His Influence upon the Layman," by Regent George Coupland. There was then presented to Professor Bessey a set of twenty-four volumes containing the publications of his former students.

The *Sunday State Journal* contains the following editorial appreciation: "The honors paid to Dr. Charles E. Bessey last night by the Botanical seminar of the University of Nebraska were richly deserved. Dr. Bessey has just completed forty years of active service as a teacher of botany—fifteen years at Ames and twenty-five years at Lincoln. When it is remembered that during each one of the forty years he has been in close personal contact with hundreds of young people, has fired them with his enthusiasm as a scientist and has influenced them with his beautiful and simple character—when all this is understood, the value of his career to the public becomes deeply impressive. It has been a source of pride and joy to the university that a man of international fame should decline flattering offers and large salaries to go elsewhere and should devote himself with unflagging zeal to the study of botany here in Nebraska. To the words of appreciation spoken last night the whole state joins in proud and spontaneous applause."

BRITISH ASSOCIATION TRIP TO ALASKA

A NUMBER of members of the British Association having written expressing their desire to go up the coast, arrangements have been made as below. It is desirable for members who wish to take this delightful trip to go before the association meets at Winnipeg, as the weather is often damp and the views obscured by mists during the latter part of September. Some of the members are coming through Asia, and others through Canada and the States before the meeting at Winnipeg, but as the times of arrival of those parties vary, it

has been found advisable to encourage them to travel in weekly companies, leaving Victoria at 11 P.M. on Fridays or Vancouver at 11 P.M. on Saturdays between July 16 and August 13 and again on September 10 for each of the undermentioned coast tours by the C. P. R. steamships, which also leave Seattle one day earlier than the above dates at the same through fares.

a. To Prince Rupert, Juneau (Great Gold Mine), Taku and other large glaciers, Skagway, and thence back to Vancouver in nine days, or to Victoria in ten days, traveling nearly 2,000 miles through enchanting scenery along sheltered "fiords." Cost, including meals and berths, \$66.

b. Including the above to Skagway, thence over the wonderful scenery of the White Pass Railway and down the Yukon River to Dawson (Klondike) and back. Time, about three weeks. Cost, \$160.

Beyond the latter those who have time and desire to go through Alaska round by Nome can do so at reasonable rates. Ordinary travelers' clothing suffices, with thick boots or rubber shoes for climbing. Arrangements are being made to entertain members during their stay at Victoria.

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING AND THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

THE following letter has been addressed by the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to the president of the George Washington University:

June 4, 1909.

PRESIDENT CHARLES W. NEEDHAM,
The George Washington University,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:—I am directed by the executive committee of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to send to you as president of the George Washington University the following communication.

The George Washington University reported to the Foundation a productive endowment of \$219,832.96 as of date August 21, 1907. In the financial statement submitted some time since it reported as of date October 3, 1908, a productive endowment of \$123,500.

The rules of the Carnegie Foundation require that an institution, to be entitled to the privileges of the retiring allowance system, must have

a productive endowment of not less than \$200,000. This proviso was made because experience has proved that no college can maintain fair educational standards without adequate endowment.

The examination which I have just caused to be made of the George Washington University shows that its announced standards of admission to the various schools are not enforced.

In the college division of the University regular students are admitted with reasonable regard to the stated admission requirements, but of the total enrollment more than one third are special students. The value of the A.B. degree, however, is seriously lowered by the lax administration of the College of Political Sciences and the Division of Education, to which admission is granted with little regard to the published entrance requirements. The Law School announces a four-year high-school education as a prerequisite for admission, but does not enforce it. Similarly in the Medical School the announced requirements for admission have been repeatedly evaded. If the entrance requirements to this school were actually enforced, the enrollment would be so greatly reduced that the department could not continue: a result, I may add, entirely in the interest of medical education, since the District of Columbia and the region about it are over-supplied not only with physicians, but with weak medical schools.

The executive committee feels compelled also to protest against the extraordinary action of the institution in forcibly retiring two professors, both of whom are in the prime of their active teaching, on the ground that the institution needs to save money by the retiring allowance system, but it is entirely contrary to the spirit in which this Foundation was conceived and is a blow at academic dignity and academic freedom.

The committee further calls your attention to the extract from the rules for the admission of institutions, "The Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reserve the right to discontinue the privilege of participation in the system of retiring allowances of the Foundation whenever, in the judgment of the trustees, an institution ceases to conform to the regulations maintained by the trustees. Such withdrawal shall not, however, result in the discontinuance of retiring allowance already granted."

The executive committee, by virtue of the authority conferred upon it under the by-laws, in view of the conditions existing in the George Washington University referred to above, conditions which are entirely out of harmony with the

educational ideals for which the Foundation stands, informs you with great regret that the relation of the George Washington University as an accepted institution is terminated with this date.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) HENRY S. PRITCHETT,
President

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At its last meeting the Rumford committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences voted a grant of \$300 to Professor W. W. Campbell, of the Lick Observatory, for the purchase of certain parts of a quartz spectrograph and to Professor M. A. Rosanoff, of Clark University, a grant of \$200 in further aid of his research on "The Fractional Distillation of Binary Mixtures."

MR. JOHN J. CARTY, chief engineer of the New York Telephone Company, has received from the Emperor of Japan the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of engineering services rendered to Japan.

THE Bessemer medal of the British Iron and Steel Institute has been presented to M. A. Pourcel.

PROFESSORS YVES DELAGE and M. G. Retzius have been elected foreign members of the Linnean Society.

MR. HORACE DARWIN, F.R.S., has been elected a corresponding member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences.

MR. CLARENCE J. HUMPHREY, assistant in botany in Cornell University, has accepted a position as scientific assistant in forest pathology in the Bureau of Plant Industry.

THE Bowdoin prizes for essays in English for the academic year 1908-9 have been awarded by the faculty of arts and sciences of Harvard University. Three prizes of \$200 each were awarded to graduates. The first of these went to C. L. B. Shuddemagen for his essay on "Mechanical Analogues for Electromagnetic Systems." R. C. Mullenix, the second of the graduate prize winners, had as his subject, "The Neurone Theory; Its Development and Its Present Status."

PROFESSOR JOSEPH P. IDINGS, of the United States Geological Survey, who has been occu-